

# Introduction to Complete Streets

January 2013



# What are Complete Streets?



Complete Streets are streets for everyone, no matter who they are or how they travel.

# What are Complete Streets?

Safe    Comfortable    Convenient



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Safe    Comfortable    Convenient



# Americans want choices

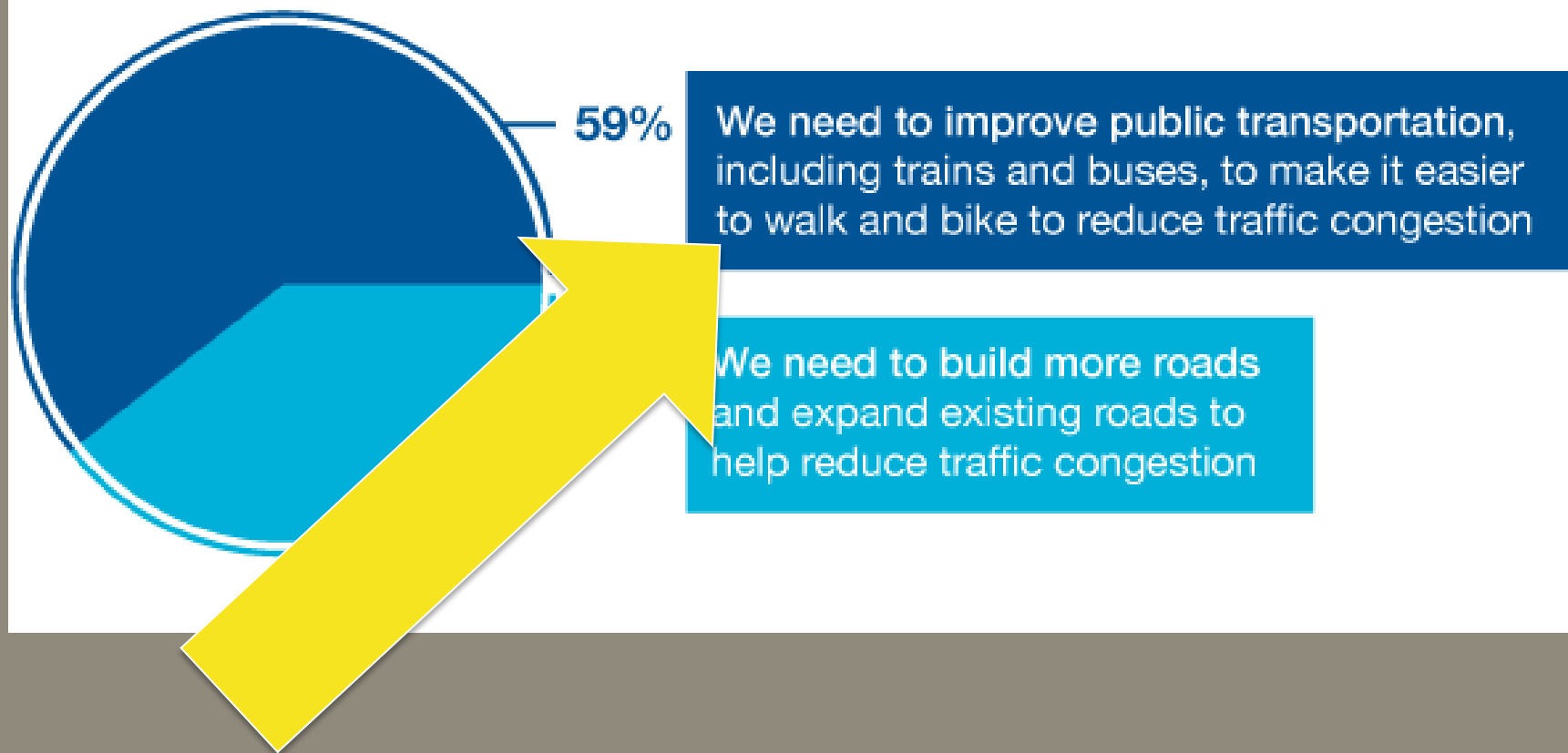
**66%** of Americans want more transportation options so they have the freedom to choose how to get where they need to go.

**73%** currently feel they have no choice but to drive as much as they do.

**57%** would like to spend less time in the car.

Future of Transportation National Survey (2010)

# Getting Out of Traffic



Future of Transportation National Survey (2010)



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# The tremendous potential

Of all trips:

**39%**

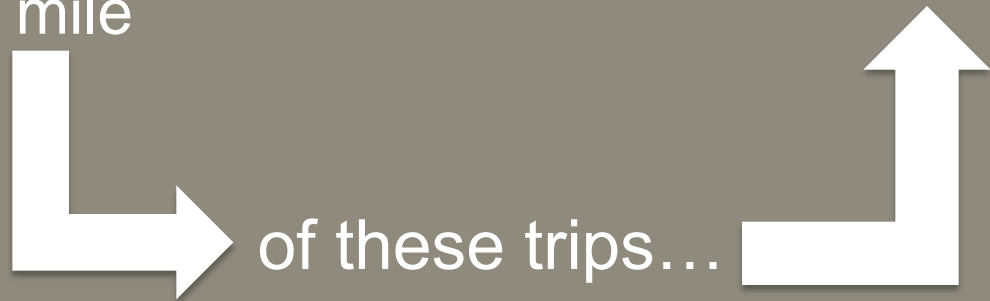
are less than  
3 miles

**17%**

are less than  
1 mile

**47%**

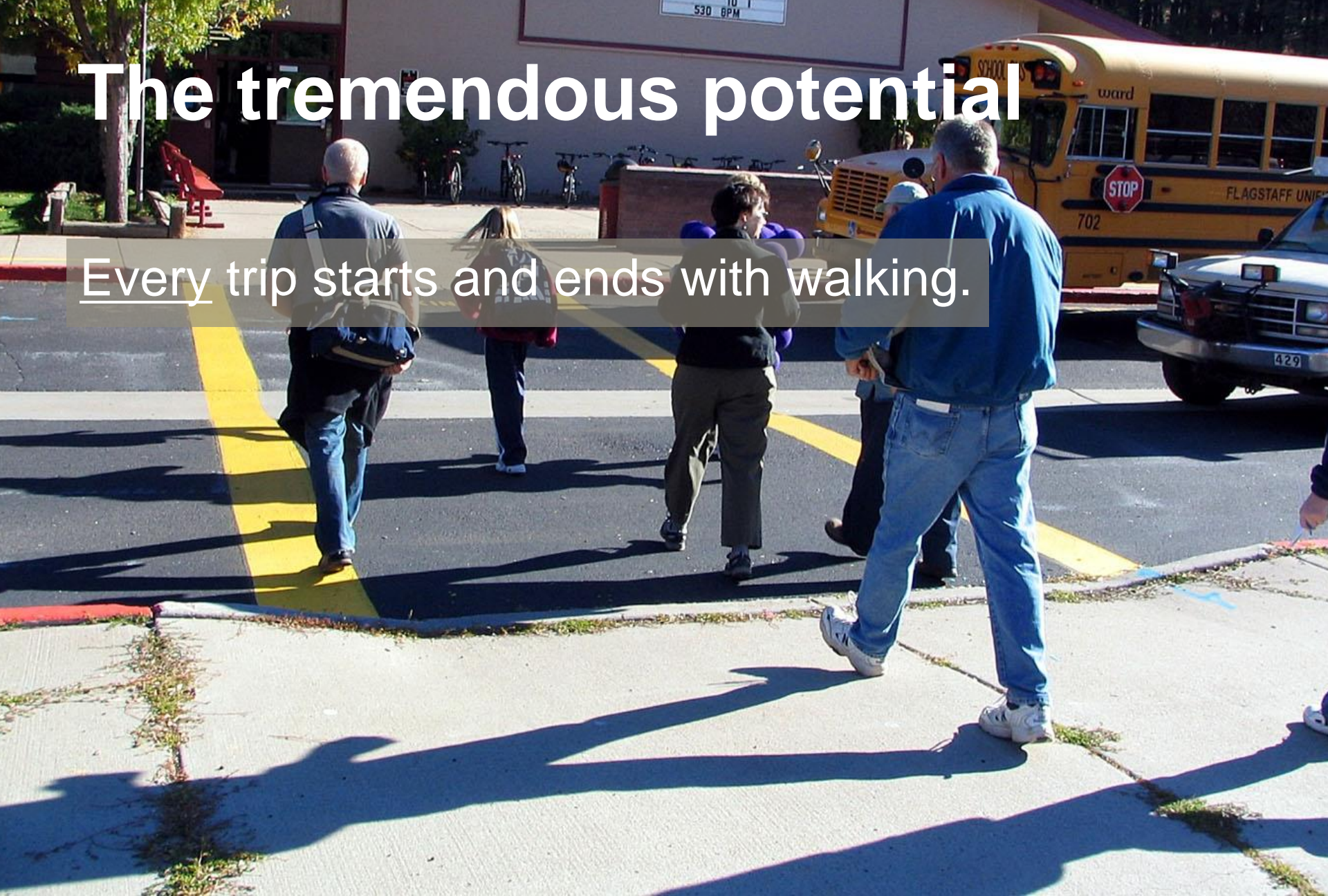
are driven



National Household Travel Survey (2009)

# The tremendous potential

Every trip starts and ends with walking.

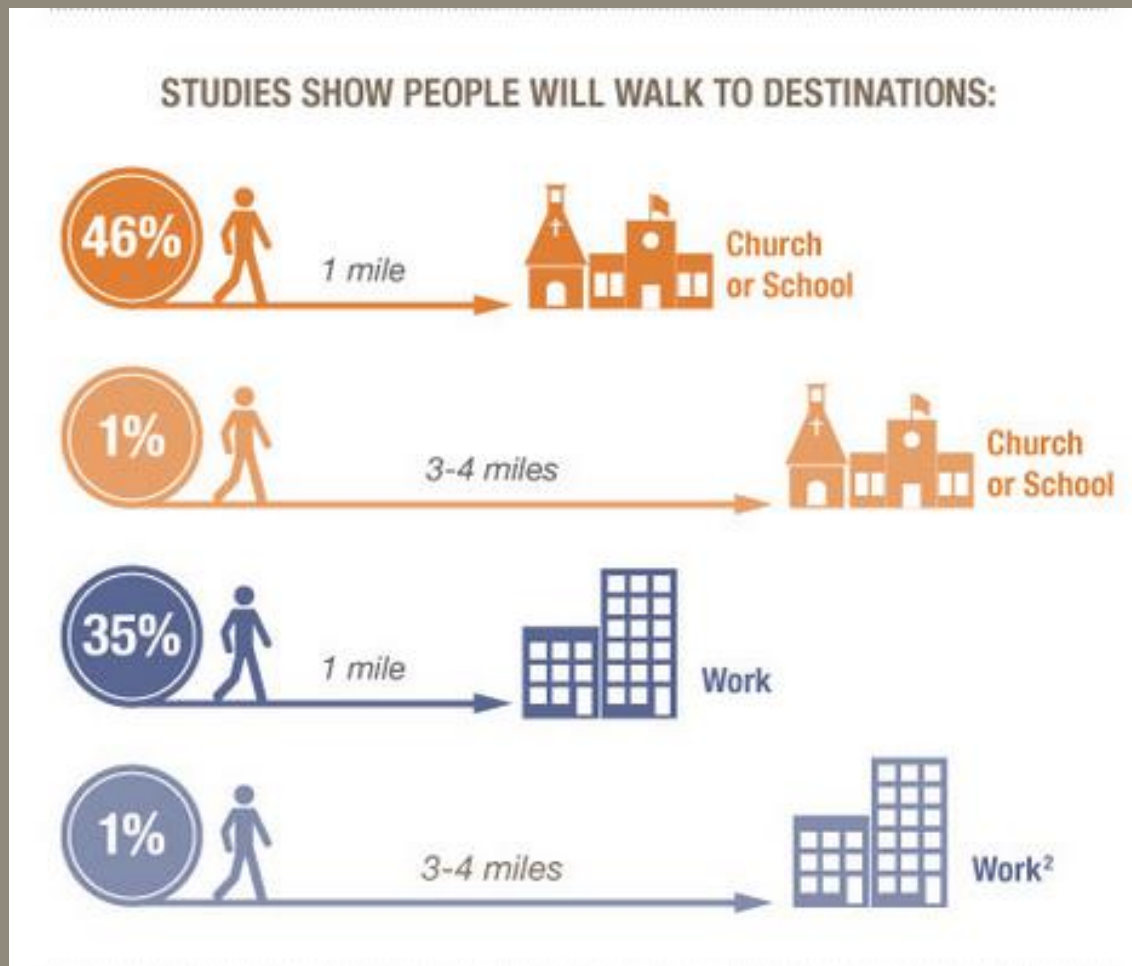


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# People will walk



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2012, [newpublichealth.org](http://newpublichealth.org)

# Who wants Complete Streets?

47%

of older Americans say it is unsafe to cross a major street near their home.

54%

of older Americans living in inhospitable neighborhoods say they would walk and bike more often if the built environment improved.

56%

express strong support for adoption of Complete Streets policies.

Planning Complete Streets for the Aging of America, AARP



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# Who wants Complete Streets?

Millennials are driving less and looking for other transportation options.



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# Incomplete streets are unsafe

**More than 40% of pedestrian deaths in 2007 and 2008 occurred where no crosswalk was available.**

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Reporting System



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# Incomplete streets are unsafe

Especially for:

- People of color
- Low-income communities
- Older adults



# Streets are inadequate

- No sidewalks
- Too dangerous to cross on foot



# Streets are inadequate

- Unsafe for bicyclists



# Streets are inadequate

- Traffic jams on arterials
- Too many crashes





# Streets are inadequate

- Uninviting for bus riders



# Streets are inadequate

- Inaccessible for wheelchair users



# Streets are inadequate

- No room for people!



# We know how to build right



# We know how to build right



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# We know how to build right



Yet too many roads still turn out like this:



or this:



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or this:





# The Solution: Complete Streets Policies



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# Complete Streets policies



Ensure that the entire right-of-way is planned, designed, constructed, operated, and maintained to provide safe access for all users



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# Complete Streets means:

High-level policy direction

Change the everyday decision-making processes and systems

Incremental approach

Long-term results



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# Complete Streets does not mean:

One 'special' street project

A design prescription

A mandate for immediate retrofit

A silver bullet; other issues must be addressed:

- Land use (proximity, mixed-use)

- Environmental concerns

- Transportation Demand Management

# Many types: rural streets



# Many types: shared streets



# Many types: skinny streets



# Many types: main streets



# Many types: urban streets



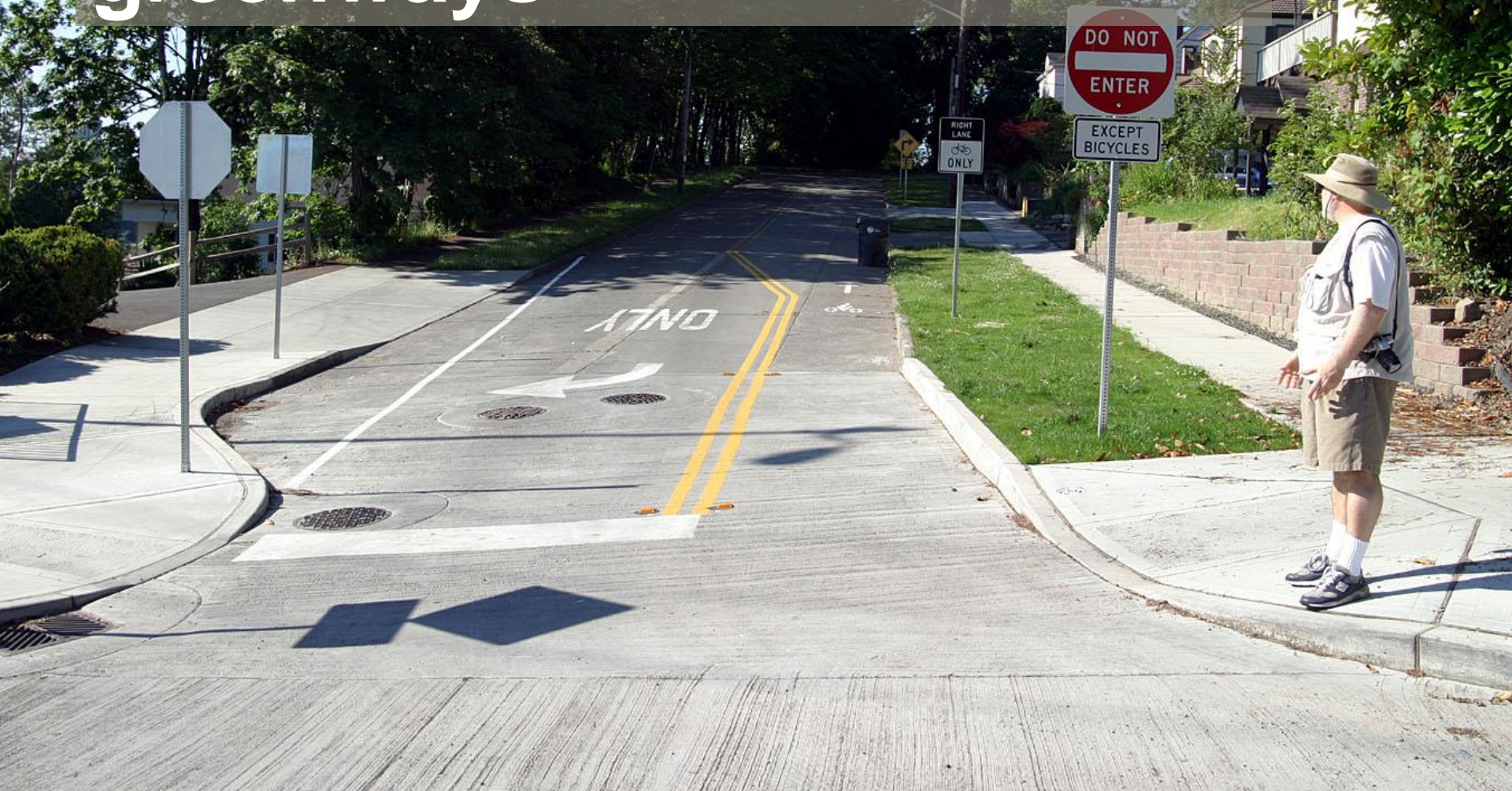
# Many types: traffic circles



# Many types: Bus Rapid Transit



# Many types: neighborhood greenways



# Many types: angled head-out parking



# Many types: cycle tracks



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# Many types: modern roundabouts



# Many types: paved shoulders



# For more information

- Fact sheets, photos, hand outs
- Information on changing policy
- Policy tracking & examples
- Complete Streets blog & monthly newsletter
- Links to research & publications



[www.completestreets.org](http://www.completestreets.org)  
[www.smartgrowthamerica.org](http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org)

# National Complete Streets Coalition Steering Committee

## Benefactor

AARP

America Bikes

American Planning Association

American Public Transportation  
Association

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota

National Association of REALTORS

Smart Growth America

## Platinum

American Society of Landscape Architects

SvR Design Company

## Bronze

Active Living by Design

Alliance for Biking & Walking

Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle  
Professionals

## Supporter

America Walks

Institute of Transportation Engineers

League of American Bicyclists

National Association of City  
Transportation Officials

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# Smart Growth America

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Smart Growth America is the only national organization dedicated to researching, advocating for and leading coalitions to bring smart growth practices to more communities nationwide.

[www.smartgrowthamerica.org](http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org)

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